

In the Claims:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled).

25. (New) A wound dressing comprising an anionic, amphoteric or hydrophilic polymer, and an effective amount of silver, which dressing, when placed in water gives a release of ionic silver into water of less than 1 ppm when measured after five hours, and when in contact with wound exudate gives a controlled release of ionic silver into the wound exudate.
26. (New) The wound dressing of claim 25, wherein the anionic, amphoteric or hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, modified polysaccharides, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl ethers, polyurethanes, polyacrylates, polyacrylamides, collagen, gelatin and mixtures thereof.
27. (New) The wound dressing of claim 25, wherein the wound dressing is in the form of fibers, or a powder, or distributed within a matrix of an adhesive.
28. (New) The wound dressing of claim 25, wherein the wound dressing comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of silver.